

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1565

To provide for the issuance of a semipostal in order to afford a convenient means by which members of the public may contribute towards the acquisition of works of art to honor female pioneers in U.S. Government service and American life.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2009

Ms. KAPTUR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a semipostal in order to afford a convenient means by which members of the public may contribute towards the acquisition of works of art to honor female pioneers in U.S. Government service and American life.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Honoring Female Con-
5 gressional Pioneers Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The 75 women currently serving in the
4 House of Representatives owe a debt of gratitude to
5 all of their foremothers who broke down barriers,
6 both in their election to, and in the important legis-
7 lative work they accomplished as Members of, the
8 House of Representatives.

9 (2) 5 women in particular stand out for their
10 status as the “first” women in certain categories.

11 (3) In 1916, Jeannette Rankin broke new
12 ground by becoming the first woman elected to the
13 House of Representatives, representing the State of
14 Montana, first from 1917 to 1919 and later from
15 1941 to 1943.

16 (4) Jeannette Rankin’s first election was all the
17 more remarkable, considering that it came 3 years
18 before women’s suffrage was a legally guaranteed
19 right throughout the United States.

20 (5) Jeannette Rankin directly contributed to a
21 woman’s right to vote when she introduced a resolu-
22 tion in 1919 to support a women’s suffrage amend-
23 ment to the Constitution of the United States.

24 (6) Jeannette Rankin remained dedicated to a
25 peaceful world, both by voting against the declara-
26 tions of World War I and World War II (and in fact

1 was the only Representative to vote against the dec-
2 laration of World War II) and by working tirelessly
3 to promote peace during her years outside of Con-
4 gress.

5 (7) In 1924, Mary Teresa Norton became the
6 first Democratic woman elected to the House of
7 Representatives, and one of a small number of
8 women during that period who were elected in their
9 own right and not to replace their husbands, rep-
10 resenting New Jersey's 12th Congressional District
11 from 1925 to 1951.

12 (8) Mary Norton served as the chair of the
13 Committee on the District of Columbia from 1931 to
14 1937, effectively governing the city, which had no
15 municipal government of its own at that time.

16 (9) In 1934, Mary Norton became the first
17 woman to chair a major political party in a State,
18 as head of the New Jersey State Committee.

19 (10) Mary Norton was instrumental in the
20 drafting and passage in 1938 of a major piece of
21 President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, the
22 Fair Labor Standards Act, which established a min-
23 imum wage, a maximum workweek, overtime pay,
24 and a prohibition on child labor.

1 (11) In 1964, Patsy Takemoto Mink became
2 the first Asian-American woman elected to the
3 House of Representatives, representing Hawaii's 2nd
4 Congressional District from 1965 to 1977 and again
5 from 1991 until her death in 2002.

6 (12) Patsy Mink secured an assignment to the
7 Committee on Education and Labor, for which her
8 previous expertise and interests made her well suit-
9 ed, and used her time on that Committee to intro-
10 duce the first child care bill, as well as bills to pro-
11 vide for bilingual education, student loans, special
12 education, and the Head Start program.

13 (13) Patsy Mink gained passage in 1965 of leg-
14 islation to support the construction of schools in the
15 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

16 (14) Patsy Mink established the Democratic
17 Women's Caucus in 1995 and served as its first
18 chair.

19 (15) In 1968, Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm
20 made history by becoming the first African-Amer-
21 ican woman elected to the House of Representatives,
22 representing New York's 12th Congressional District
23 until her retirement in 1983.

24 (16) Shirley Chisholm was a founding member
25 of the Congressional Black Caucus, a fierce advocate

1 for women's rights and democracy, and a staunch
2 opponent of the Vietnam War.

3 (17) Shirley Chisholm was an outspoken advo-
4 cate for equal rights, early childhood education, fair
5 labor standards, and the Martin Luther King, Jr.
6 holiday effort.

7 (18) Shirley Chisholm further cemented her
8 place in history when she became the first African-
9 American person to seek a major political party's
10 nomination for President in 1972.

11 (19) In 1920, Edith Nourse Rogers became the
12 first congresswoman from New England and, when
13 she died in 1960 after 35 years of service to Massa-
14 chusetts, became the longest-serving Congress-
15 woman.

16 (20) In 1929, Edith Rogers became the first
17 woman to gavel the House of Representatives to
18 order.

19 (21) Edith Rogers became the first woman in
20 Congress to have her name attached to a bill, which
21 bill eventually achieved enactment in 1938 and es-
22 tablished the National Cancer Institute.

23 (22) There is a genuine need to honor these
24 women, and others like them, more often in our Na-
25 tion's artistic and cultural venues.

1 **SEC. 3. SPECIAL POSTAGE STAMP.**

2 In order to afford the public a convenient means by
3 which to contribute towards the acquisition (for public dis-
4 play in the United States Capitol and other appropriate
5 venues) of works of art honoring Jeannette Rankin, Mary
6 Teresa Norton, Patsy Takemoto Mink, Shirley Anita St.
7 Hill Chisholm, Edith Nourse Rogers, and other female
8 pioneers in U.S. Government service and to American life,
9 the United States Postal Service shall provide for the
10 issuance and sale of a semipostal in accordance with sec-
11 tion 416 of title 39, United States Code, subject to the
12 following:

13 (1) DISPOSITION OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—All
14 amounts becoming available from the sale of the
15 semipostal shall be transferred by the Postal Service
16 to the Capitol Preservation Commission and the
17 House Fine Arts Board (which is hereby authorized
18 to accept any such amounts) under such arrange-
19 ments as the Postal Service and those entities shall
20 by mutual agreement establish in order to carry out
21 the purposes of this Act.

22 (2) NO EFFECT ON AUTHORITY TO ISSUE
23 OTHER STAMPS.—No semipostal issued pursuant to
24 this Act shall be taken into account for purposes of
25 applying any numerical limitation established under
26 section 416(e)(1)(C) of such title 39.

1 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For purposes of this Act—

3 (1) the term “semipostal” has the meaning
4 given such term by section 416(a)(1) of title 39,
5 United States Code;

6 (2) any determination of the “amounts becom-
7 ing available” from the sale of the semipostal de-
8 scribed in section 3 shall be made in accordance with
9 section 416(d) of title 39, United States Code;

10 (3) the term “Capitol Preservation Commis-
11 sion” means the United States Capitol Preservation
12 Commission, established by section 801 of Public
13 Law 100–696 (2 U.S.C. 2081); and

14 (4) the term “House Fine Arts Board” means
15 the House of Representatives Fine Arts Board, es-
16 tablished by section 1001 of Public Law 100–696 (2
17 U.S.C. 2121).

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